CLASSICAL CONDITIONING

Classical conditioning (also known as Pavlovian or respondent conditioning) refers to a learning procedure in which a biologically potent stimulus (e.g. Food) is paired with a previously neutral stimulus (e.g. A bell).

Basic form of learning in which one stimulus comes to serve as a signal for the occurrence of a second stimulus. During classical conditioning, organisms acquire information about the relations between various stimuli, not simple associations between them.

Terminology of classical conditioning

- **Unconditioned stimulus (UCS):** in classical conditioning, a stimulus that can provoke an unconditioned response the first it is presented.
- **Unconditioned response (UCR**): in classical conditioning, the response evoked by an unconditioned stimulus.
- Terminology of classical conditioning
- **Conditioned stimulus (CS**): in classical conditioning, the stimulus that is repeatedly paired with an unconditioned stimulus.
- **Conditioned response (CR**): in classical conditioning, the response to the conditioned stimulus**.**

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Types of conditioning in acquisition

- **Forward conditioning**: the usual method of classical conditioning, in which the CS precedes the UCS compare backward conditioning.
- **Delay conditioning:** a form of forward conditioning in which the onset of the unconditioned stimulus (UCS) begin while the conditioned stimulus (CS)is still present**.**
- **Trace conditioning:** a form of forward conditioning in which the onset of the unconditioned stimulus (CS)precedes the onset of the unconditioned stimulus (UCS)and the presentation of the CS and UCS does not overlap**.**

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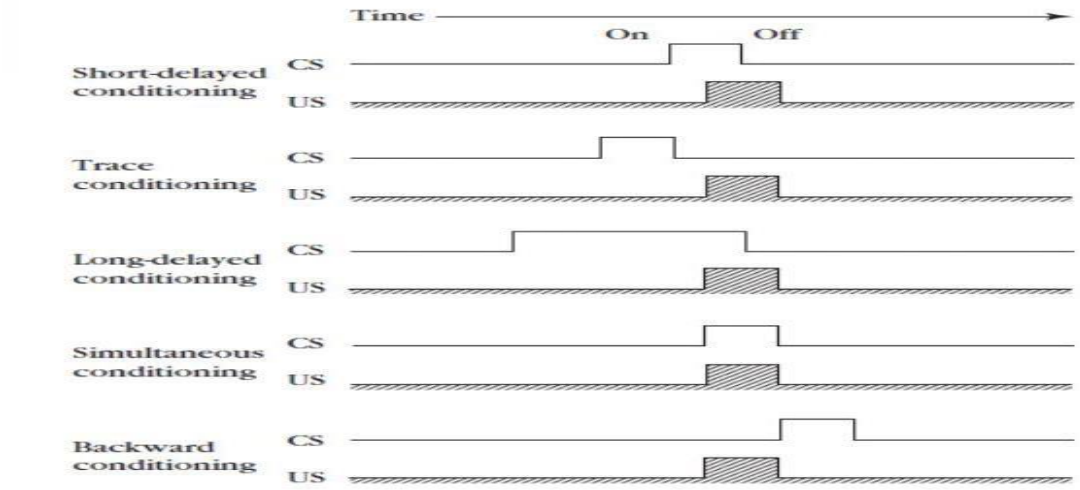
- **Simultaneous conditioning**: a form of conditioning in which the CS and the UCS begin and end at the same time.

Backward conditioning: a type of conditioning in which the presentation of the UCS precedes the presentation of the CS.



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J B Watson and Classical Conditioning

John b. Watson Created the school of behaviourist methodology within psychology and he published his views on this psychological theory in 1913. The article was entitled "**psychology as the behaviourist views it" and it is commonly considered a manifesto on behaviourism**

He hypothesized that just as people learn to associate sounds with objects or symbols, so too did people learn to associate certain feelings, behaviours, and other things with situations, objects, and symbols. This was Watson's blueprint for learning, through which he believed all people learn or can unlearn and relearn lessons as needed.

Little Albert Experiment

- **Little albert was the fictitious name given to an unknown child who was subjected to an experiment in classical conditioning by john Watson and Rosalie**
- The little Albert experiment was a controlled experiment showing empirical evidence of classical conditioning in humans.

The study also provides an example of stimulus generalization.

❖ **Stimulus generalization**

Stimulus generalization is the ability to behave in a new situation in a way that has been learned in other similar situations. Stimulus generalization occurs when an organism responds to a stimulus in the same way that it responds to a similar stimulus. This occurs during the classical conditioning process. For example, imagine that a dog has been conditioned to run to its owner when it hears a whistle. The dog exhibits the same response when it hears a small child emit a high-pitched shriek. This is an example of stimulus generalization. The animal responds to the similar stimulus in the same way it would to the conditioned stimulus.

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